

and no great demand is made upon the skill of the cultivator who desires to try his fortune in this direction. As regards the call upon his capital, some idea of the cost of opening and maintaining a plantation will be obtained from the estimates which the author supplies, showing the expenditure in Ceylon and the Malay Peninsula. As an alternative to tea-planting, orange-growing, and cattle-ranching, the production of rubber would seem to be well worth consideration by young Britons who go abroad in search of a competency.

C. SIMMONDS.

PREHISTORIC ENGLAND.¹

AS this volume contains a notice by the publishers that they "will shortly begin" the issue of the series of "The Antiquary's Books," to which this belongs, it may be assumed that it is the first. For the reason that it is an earnest of the quality to be expected in its successors, the book, both in manner and matter, must be treated in somewhat more critical and judicial fashion than if the series had been already fairly launched. The responsibility of a publisher in placing an antiquarian library before the public is never light, and at the present time it suffers from the inequality of modern knowledge in respect to the various prehistoric and archaeological periods. The later stages of the former class have vast floods of light thrown upon them by the constantly recurring discoveries in the Levant, and the comparative method has enabled us to classify many of our native antiquities by their means. In regard to the earlier stages of man's existence we are in the main still advancing at a painfully slow rate, and can scarcely be held to have more than a misty comprehension of the subject. In historic times the same want of balance of knowledge exists equally, though it is a far easier task to mask the difficulty, and to produce a nicely balanced tale from groups of facts of very different values.

The present volume deals only with the relics of man in Britain anterior to the coming of the Roman invaders, and in a sense, therefore, may be called prehistoric, for nothing in the nature of a native record can be quoted in support of any part of it. The author by his title, moreover, limits his field to the remains

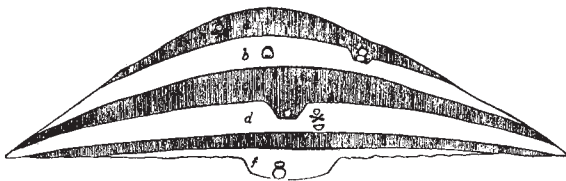


FIG. 1.—Section of Barrow with successive Interments. From "Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England."

of the dwellers in Britain, that is to say, to the monuments they raised, the implements they made, and the graves in which they deposited their dead. The racial characteristics, as shown by the physical characters, are treated very briefly, and the burning questions of the priority of Brythons and Goidels in the land, of the precise position of the Picts as an indigenous tribe, of the succeeding immigrations from the Continent bringing with them new types of people, of weapons, or of burial customs, are only incidentally mentioned.

By the elimination of all these questions Dr. Windle has set himself an infinitely lighter task; but it is to be questioned how far an intelligent reader can gain

a true understanding of the conditions described without some fuller information on these points. It must be confessed, however, that the subject bristles with difficulties of all kinds and has tempting pitfalls for even the wary searcher, and, on the other hand, Dr. Windle has a right to set his own limits. Even within these limits he may be thought somewhat hardy, for to give an adequate account of all the material relics of man in Britain from the dawn of human life up to about 2000 years ago, within the compass of little more than three hundred pages, is not a thing to be undertaken with a light heart. One of the principal difficulties to be overcome is to avoid confusion in exposition and arrangement. In this matter Dr. Windle might have had more success. In

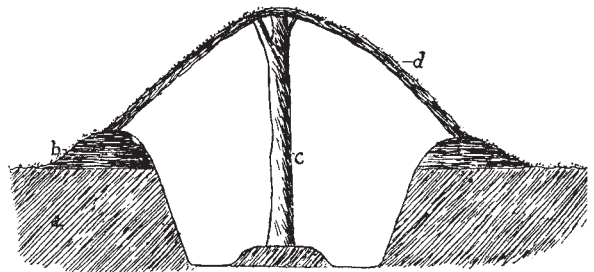


FIG. 2.—Ideal Section of Pit-dwelling. *a*, Natural soil; *b*, Bank of same heaped up around Pit; *c*, Central support of Roof; *d*, Roof of Pit and Branches. From "Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England."

more cases than one, instances of special types of implements are quoted without giving the very necessary information that they belong to widely different periods. For instance, in dealing with "pygmy flints," a puzzling subject, Dr. Windle quotes a number of surface finds, and then goes on to say, "in France they have been discovered at Bruniquet." This can only mislead the inquirer or the student, for, so far as we know, the Bruniquet station, which is undoubtedly of the mammoth period, has no relation at all to such surface finds as have been made in Lincolnshire, Lancashire, India, or Belgium. Nothing is more certain than that mere type or form alone is the most unsafe criterion of age.

This elementary axiom may sound very like a platitude, but it is constantly neglected by men whose words carry weight, and cannot, therefore, be too much insisted upon. Such errors or vague statements affect the essentials of prehistoric science, and if persisted in inevitably retard the advance of knowledge instead of accelerating it, as Dr. Windle undoubtedly wishes to do. Again, it is very questionable wisdom to devote a chapter to "bone implements," the paragraphs dealing indiscriminately with the remains from the French caves, the Swiss lakes, and from a station like Grime's Graves. In the first place, there is again no relation between the sites quoted, and, so far as the French caves are concerned, the "bone" implements are mostly of horn. No doubt the information necessary to a proper understanding of the relative ages of the Dordogne caves, the Swiss lake dwellings, and the Norfolk flint pits is to be found elsewhere in the book; but for a popular work dealing with a difficult and complicated subject the first essential is clearness of exposition beyond all possibility of misunderstanding.

Further, Dr. Windle's authorities are occasionally antiquated. It is not treating the reader quite fairly to give him Dr. Thurnam's classification of barrows without qualification. Is it, for instance, quite certain in the light of recent knowledge that all round barrows are of the Bronze age? It is also a trifle hard to find the late Dr. Frazer quoted as an authority on

¹ "Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England." By Bertram C. A. Windle, Sc.D., F.R.S. Pp. xv + 320; illustrated. (London: Methuen and Co.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

gold in Ireland, while Salomon Reinach is not even mentioned. A little discrimination would have shown that Mr. Romilly Allen was making a curious statement (p. 293) when he said: "The bowls . . . seem to belong to the end of the Late Celtic period and the beginning of the Saxon." What becomes of the four hundred and odd years intervening between the two, when the Roman power was dominant in Britain? Such statements betray a carelessness that is not easily excused in a man of Dr. Windle's standing. The same want of precision is shown in "Hallstadt" for Halstatt, "Collie March" on one page and "Colley March" on another, the "forging" of bronze instead of "casting," and others of the same kind. In the circumstances it is a hard thing to say, but the illustrations leave much to be desired. The two figures we reproduce show diagrammatically a barrow with successive interments, and a restoration of a pit dwelling, from Mr. George Clinch's Kentish discoveries.

The book might easily have been so much better, for it has many good and useful points, that there is something exasperating in finding much to quarrel with. The index is a good and useful one, the lists of ancient remains an excellent departure, compiled with all modesty, and there is a great deal of clear treatment of some knotty questions, such as the so-called "Eolithic" period. As a series, the size of the volume is convenient and the print good, and in spite of the strictures we have felt bound to make, there is little doubt that the publishers will find a ready sale.

MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE British Association will hold its meeting this year in South Africa. In these exceptional circumstances, the general officers of the association requested the council to appoint a strong committee to cooperate with them in carrying out the necessary arrangements. This "South African Committee" has held frequent sittings, and its work is so far advanced that it is now possible to make the following announcements.

Although the annual circular and programme have not yet been issued, pending the receipt of information from South Africa, many members have already intimated their intention of being present at the meeting. The "official party" of guests invited by the central executive committee at Cape Town, and nominated in the first instance by the council of the association, numbers upwards of 150 persons, comprising members of the council, past and present general officers and sectional presidents, the present sectional officers, and a certain proportion of the leading members of each section. To this list has yet to be added, on the nomination of the organising committees, the names of representative foreign and colonial men of science, the total number of the official party being restricted to 200, including the local officials. It is hoped, however, that many other members of the association will also attend the meeting.

The presidents-elect of the various sections are as follows:—

A (Mathematical and Physical Science), Prof. A. R. Forsyth, F.R.S.; B (Chemistry), Mr. G. T. Beilby; C (Geology), Prof. H. A. Miers, F.R.S.; D (Zoology), Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S.; E (Geography), Admiral Sir W. J. L. Wharton, K.C.B., F.R.S.; F (Economic Science and Statistics), Rev. W. Cunningham; G (Engineering), Colonel Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff, G.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., R.E.; H (Anthropology), Dr. A. C. Haddon, F.R.S.; I (Physiology), Colonel D. Bruce, F.R.S.; K (Botany),

Mr. Harold Wager, F.R.S.; L (Educational Science), Sir Richard C. Jebb, M.P.

The vice-presidents, recorders, and secretaries of the eleven sections have also now been appointed.

In view of the numerous towns to be visited by the association, and in which lectures or addresses will be given, the number of lecturers appointed is much larger than usual. The list of these, as at present arranged, is as follows:—

Cape Town: Prof. Poulton, on Burchell's work in South Africa; and Mr. C. V. Boys, on a subject in physics. *Durban*: Mr. F. Soddy, on radio-activity. *Maritzburg*: Prof. Arnold, on compounds of steel. *Johannesburg*: Prof. Ayrton, on distribution of power; Prof. Porter, on mining; and Mr. G. W. Lamplugh, on the geology of the Victoria Falls. *Pretoria* (or possibly *Bulawayo*): Mr. Shipley, on a subject in zoology. *Bloemfontein*: Mr. Hinks, on a subject in astronomy. *Kimberley*: Sir William Crookes, on diamonds.

As the wish has been conveyed to the council from South Africa that a few competent investigators should be selected to deliver addresses dealing with local problems of which they possessed special knowledge, a geologist, a bacteriologist, and an archæologist have been invited to undertake this work, involving in two cases special missions in advance of the main party. Whilst Colonel Bruce, F.R.S., will deal with some bacteriological questions of practical importance to South Africa, Mr. G. W. Lamplugh (by the courtesy of the Board of Education) will be enabled to investigate certain features in the geology of the Victoria Falls—particularly as regards the origin and structure of the cañon—and Mr. D. R. MacIver, who is at present exploring in Nubia, will proceed in March to Rhodesia in order to examine and report on the ancient ruins at Zimbabwe and also at Inyanga.

Most of the officials, and other members of the association, will leave Southampton on July 29 by the Union Castle Mail SS. *Saxon*, and arrive at Cape Town on August 15, the opening day of the meeting; but a considerable number will start from Southampton on the previous Saturday, either by the ordinary mail-boat or by the intermediate steamer sailing on that date.

The sectional meetings will be held at Cape Town (three days) and Johannesburg (three days). Between the inaugural meeting at the former and the concluding meeting at the latter town, opportunities will be offered to members to visit the Natal battlefields and other places of interest. Subsequently a party will be made up to proceed to the Victoria Falls (Zambesi); and, should a sufficient number of members register their names, a special steamer will be chartered for the voyage home, *viâ* Beira, by the east coast route, as an alternative to the return through Cape Town by the west coast route. Thus all the colonies and Rhodesia will be visited by the association. The tour will last 70 days *viâ* Cape Town, or a week longer *viâ* Beira (all-sea), leaving Southampton on July 29 and returning thither on October 7 or 14.

A central executive committee has been constituted at Cape Town, with Sir David Gill as chairman and Dr. Gilchrist as secretary; while local committees have been formed at Johannesburg and other important centres.

Prof. G. H. Darwin, F.R.S., is the president-elect, and among the vice-presidents-elect are the following:—the Rt. Hon. Lord Milner, the Hon. Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, Sir Henry McCallum, the Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley, Sir H. J. Goold-Adams, Sir David Gill, and Sir Charles Metcalfe.